

Outline of the Book of Common Prayer, The Daily Office

by Dave Eitland, friend of Grace Episcopal Church, Traverse City, Michigan

Introduction:

- No matter the copy of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) that you pickup, all of the pages will have the same page numbers. The one most are using is the 1979 edition. There are other editions that date back to the 1600s.
- It has been said that the only thing that an Episcopalian Christian needs to have a worship and prayer life is a copy of the Bible and the BCP. They do have an authorized hymnal but it is more than a song book than worship book.
- The Daily Office is only one way to give structure to a daily walk with God.
- The BCP uses a two year lectionary of biblical reading so that once you have gone through the cycle you would have read 85% of the Bible.
- The Bible of common use is the New Revised Standard Bible but any good translation will do.
 - The God's Word translation by Baker Books is a nice contemporary English alternative.
http://www.amazon.com/GODS-Handi-Size-Baker-Publishing-Group/dp/193258708X/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1331293358&sr=8-2
- The BCP basic outline of the book is:
 - Prayer and Worship
 - Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist
 - Pastoral Offices
 - Episcopal Services
 - Book of Psalms also called the Psalter
 - Catechism: Outline of Faith
 - Historical documents of the Church
 - Tables to establish Easter and Holy days
 - The "old" Lectionary
 - The EC went to the Revised Common Lectionary like most of the main line churches, so this is out of date
 - Daily Office Lectionary
- Episcopalians do use music but it is not listed in the BCP.
- The rhythm of devotional life is doing the Daily Office at home daily and worshipping in the church on Sundays.
- The Daily Office is meant as a starting point in devotional and study life. Some use it exclusively for their devotional life. Others use parts of it and use other devotional resources. It is not a mandatory rule that people have to follow but a good starting point that people have used continuously in this country for over 400 years.
- The morning office is listed here. Others also use the evening office and other forms for the hours of the day.
- There are many resources on-line so that you do not need the physical book but using the book is handy when the power is off or something is off-line

- <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>
- <http://dailyoffice.org/>
- The lectionary calendar can be found online here:
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2012.html#anchor2479251>
- There are two Rites for worship. Rite One has more traditional English, thee's and thou's. Rite II is contemporary as of 1979 or the publication of the authorized version of the BCP.
- Remember to take times for silence and reflection during the Office to listen to God and how God's word is talking to you today.

THE DAILY OFFICE OUTLINE

BCP page numbers

- Basic tools:
 - Bible
 - BCP
 - A lectionary calendar so you know what day of the year it is.
 - Might want to get some ribbons to mark parts of the book. I use the word "Ribbon" as where a book mark might go.
 - Notebook/Sketch pad to journal and take notes, reflections, draw pictures, prayer lists, etc. (optional)

Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two 75

OPENING SENTENCE 75 – 78

Ribbon

This is a liturgical seasonal phrase that changes with the season in the Lectionary Calendar.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 79 - 80

INVITATORY RESPONSE AND DOXOLOGY

This is the phrase that starts and ends the reading of the Psalter

CATHERAL PSALMS (*Vente or Jubilate or Pacha nostrum*) 82-84

The cathedral psalms precede the appointed psalm

APPOINTED PSALTER 585 – 808

The Psalter (Ribbon) 585 – 808

Note the Lectionary (Ribbon place on current week) 936 – 995

The Daily Office Lectionary is the place you will find the appointed scripture readings for the day. One side is Year One (even pages), Year Two on the other

side 9 (odd pages). The Lectionary Calendar will tell you the season and week we are currently residing in our readings.

Today, Friday, March 09, 2012, we are in year two, 2nd Week in Lent:

Morning Psalm is listed first: 95

Evening Psalm is listed next: 73

Old Testament Lessons: Genesis 43:1-15

Epistle/Second Reading: I Corinthians 7:1-9

Gospel: Mark 4:35 – 41

People use all or just the Gospel for their devotion.

Holy days are noted after the lectionary calendar.

READING FOLLOWED BY CANTICLES

Note above to find the readings for the day.

Canticles follow each of the readings. Pick what you want or not. 85 -96

GOSPEL

Note above to find the readings for the day.

Canticles follow each of the readings. Pick what you want or not. 85 -96

APOSTLE'S CREED

Ribbon 96

The Apostle's Creed is used here to acknowledge our baptism. The Nicene Creed is used on Sundays at worship.

THE LORD'S PRAYER 97

SUFFERAGES 97 -98

These are ancient responses to the Lord's Prayers

COLLECTS AND INTERCESSIONS 98 – 102

This is the place for prayer of any kind. This is the place for prayer and intercessions for the needs of the family, friends, poor, homeless, the Church, its leaders, the sick, the world, peace, etc.

Collects are “the prayer of the week” and can be found on pages 211 – 261 and is usually one of the prayers of the morning office. The collect for the week is the one for Sunday – Saturday. Using the lectionary calendar above, the collect for the week would be the one for the second week in Lent. Ribbon

Additional prayers and thanksgivings can be found on pages 814 – 841.

I sometimes use the Great Litany found on pages 148 – 155.

Or be led by the Holy Spirit and do your own.

Traditionally the last prayer is the prayer of St. Chrysostom on page 102. This reminds us we are with Christ and others around the world praying together for the sake of people, the Church, and the world.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

102

We bless the Lord and ourselves with the response and one of the closing blessings.

After that you may want to sit in silence, reflect, journal, or move to a busy day.

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Know when you pray the Daily Office, you are praying with many here in America and around the world.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.